

Serial No. 10/564,186
Amendment
Responsive to Office Action dated June 13, 2008

H&C-5138

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-4, 7-11, and 13 are pending. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1, 4, and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim for Priority

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner officially acknowledges the claim for priority of Japanese application No. 2004-028347 and the safe receipt of the certified priority document.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 10-12 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatentable over Okamura et al, JP2000-96626, in view of Hirai, JP 8-74292, and further in view of Hibiya,

Serial No. 10/564,186

H&C-5138

Amendment

Responsive to Office Action dated June 13, 2008

JP 2001-40702. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 12, which has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, new claim 13 has been added that includes all of the limitations of allowable claim 10 and base claim 1.

Accordingly, each of claims 1-4, 7-11 and 13 should now be allowed and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit an Information Disclosure Statement for a document cited in Japanese application No. 2004-028347, which is the application from which the present application claims priority. A copy of the document is submitted. The document is in the Japanese language and therefore a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is provided by the English language Abstract of the document also submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement. Consideration of the document is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 10/564,186

H&C-5138

Amendment

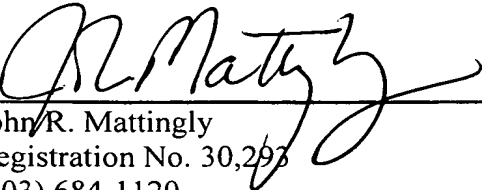
Responsive to Office Action dated June 13, 2008

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C.



John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
(703) 684-1120

Date: September 15, 2008